LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
Information Bulletin

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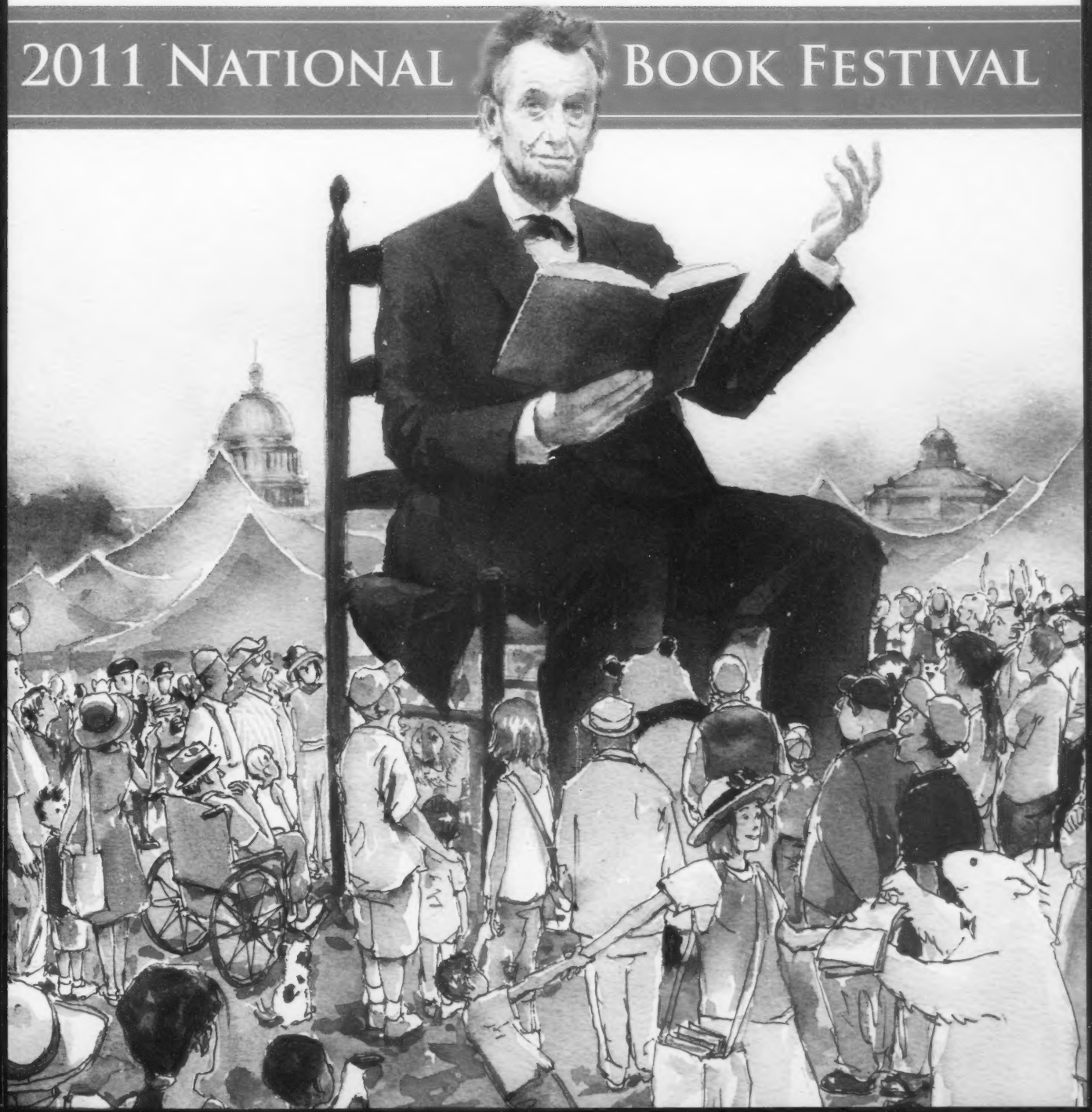
November – December 2011

2011 National Book Festival



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
Information Bulletin

Vol. 70, Nos. 11–12 November–December 2011

JAMES H. BILLINGTON
Librarian of Congress

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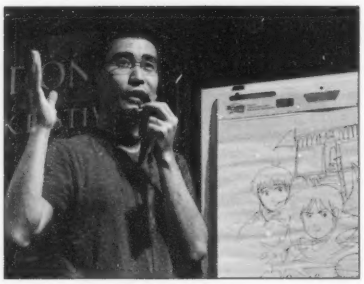

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On the Cover: This year's National Book Festival poster tied into the Civil War Sesquicentennial, featuring our self-taught president, Abraham Lincoln. *Illustration by Jon J Muth, see story on page 487*

More Days, More Authors, More Books: The 2011 National Book Festival expanded to Sunday and filled the National Mall in Washington with booklovers of all ages. 479

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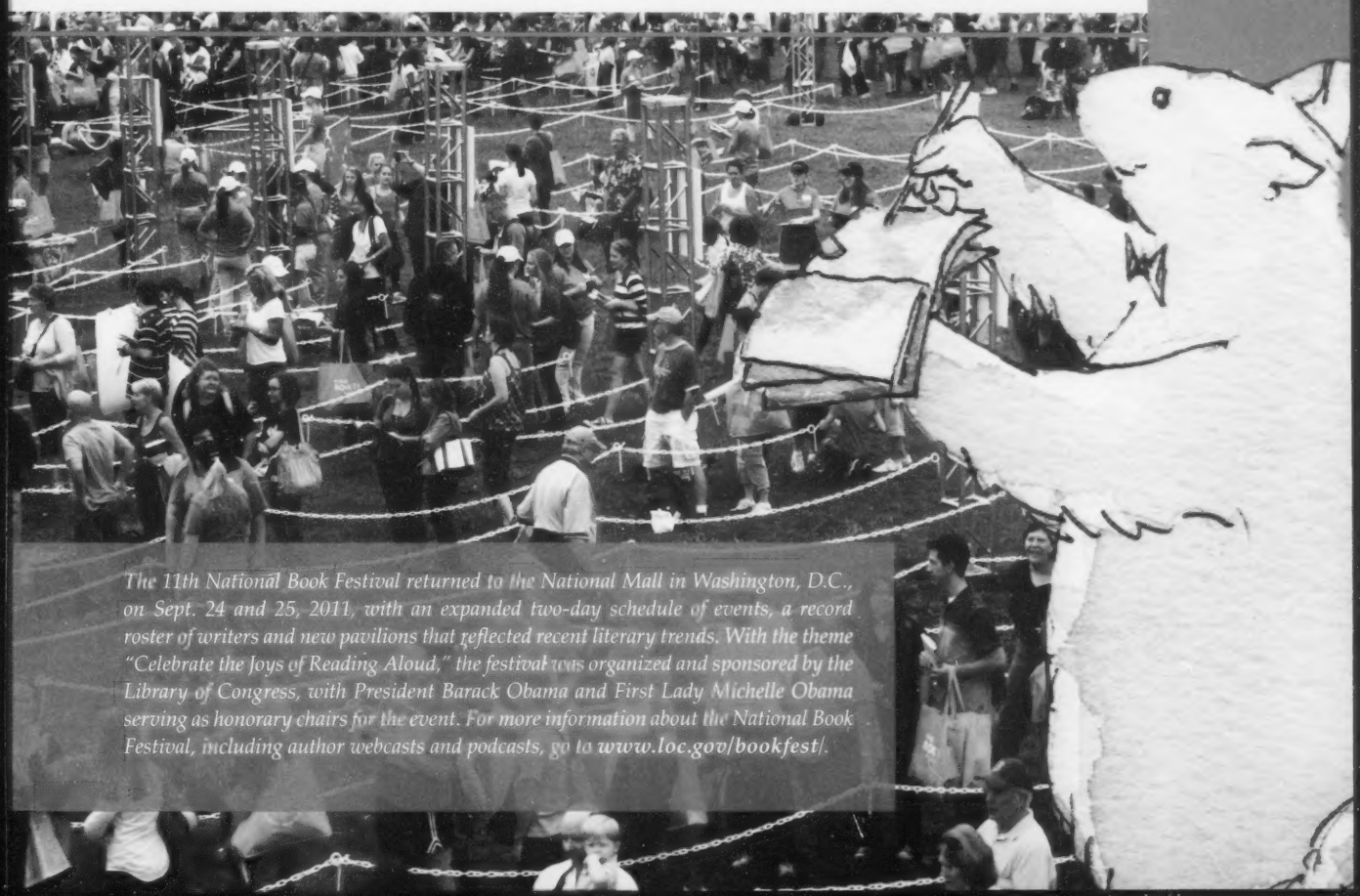
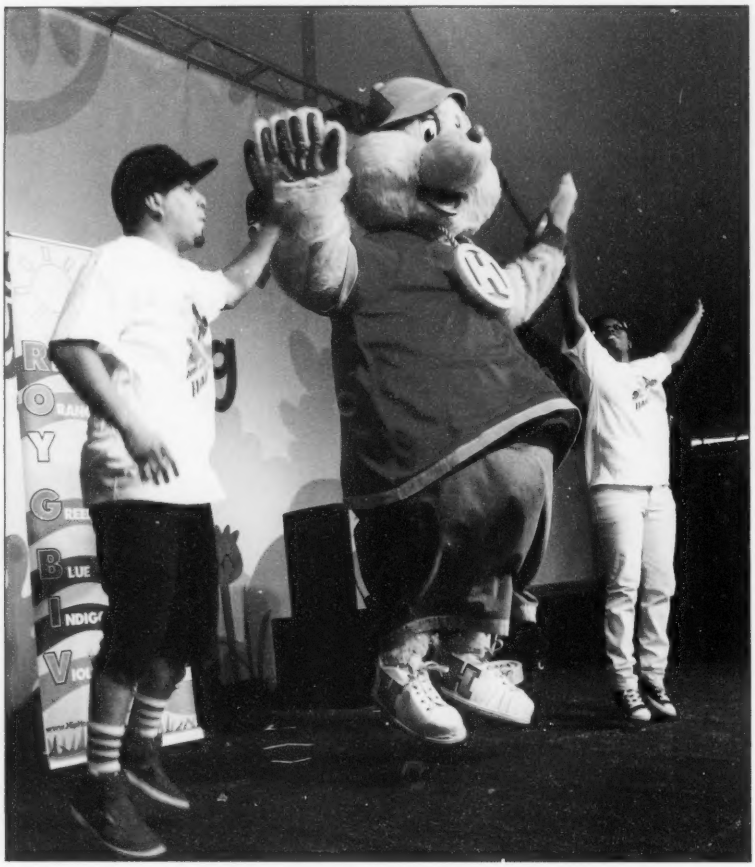
2011

NATIONAL BOOK FESTIVAL



The 11th National Book Festival returned to the National Mall in Washington, D.C., on Sept. 24 and 25, 2011, with an expanded two-day schedule of events, a record roster of writers and new pavilions that reflected recent literary trends. With the theme "Celebrate the Joys of Reading Aloud," the festival was organized and sponsored by the Library of Congress, with President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama serving as honorary chairs for the event. For more information about the National Book Festival, including author webcasts and podcasts, go to ***www.loc.gov/bookfest/****.*

Two-Day Festival Is One for the Books—and Twice as Nice



Paul Morigi

Hip Hop Harry (center) entertained children and adults alike at the Family Storytelling Stage.

By MARK HARTSELL

Like a good book, the 11th annual National Book Festival took readers to places they never before had been. The festival, staged over two days for the first time in its history, drew a record 200,000 fans to the National Mall for a weekend of discussion, music, laughter, humidity and talks by 112 authors—also a record.

"For more than a decade, the National Book Festival has given booklovers of all ages the rare opportunity to meet, interact with and be inspired by their favorite authors," Librarian of Congress James H. Billington said. "Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors and supporters—and the more than 1,100 volunteers who give their time to make this event possible—we can look forward to this beloved celebration of reading and literacy for years to come."

A pair of literary heavyweights—Toni Morrison and David McCullough—provided the festival with prize-winning bookends.

Morrison, who won a Pulitzer in 1988 for her novel "Beloved" and a Nobel in 1993, gave the festival a sparkling start on a soggy Saturday morning—and picked up another prize for her mantelpiece, the 2011 National Book Festival Creative Achievement Award.

Nearly 31 hours later, McCullough, who won Pulitzers for biographies of Harry S. Truman and John Adams, closed the event.

"We are what we read—to a far greater extent than people realize," McCullough said. "What we read shapes how we think. Know what your children are reading and encourage them to read the best works possible."

In between, the festival showcased a first-class mix of literary luminaries and popular figures: Pulitzer-winners Edmund Morris, Siddhartha Mukherjee, Rita Dove and Jennifer Egan; author and four-time Academy Award nominee Julianne Moore; humorist Garrison Keillor; "tiger mother" Amy Chua; and a collection of mascots and musicians on hand to entertain the youngest of young readers.

The festival attracted all sorts: groups who traveled hundreds of miles to attend; locals who come every year; diehard fans who patiently waited in book-signing lines that stretched across the Mall; families who queued up for photos with Arthur the Aardvark; and even a man who walked a special guest to readings—a heavyset cat on a leash.

They were treated to two days of author talks, Q&As, book-signings and music that at times got down-

Tom Fontana

Washington Post book reviewer Michael Dirda interviewed Toni Morrison in front of a packed audience in the Fiction and Mystery pavillion.

right boisterous. "Today" show cohost Hoda Kotb closed her session with a sing-along of "Play that Funky Music," and Hip Hop Harry—a giant bear sporting a wristwatch and a plate-sized medallion—led a high-volume call-and-response with a pavilion full of shrieking children.

Fairfax County high school teacher Karla Eaton arrived at 9:05 a.m. on Saturday with a mission: get Morrison to autograph her most recent novel, "A Mercy."

After a 2½-hour wait in line, Eaton got her wish—then walked away in tears.

"I just told her, 'Thank you for everything you've written,' " Eaton said. "She's the greatest living author of our time. If F. Scott Fitzgerald were here, I would have waited in line for his autograph for 40 hours. That's how I feel about Toni Morrison. It was worth every minute."

Ron Griswold traveled from his home in Pittsfield, Mass., to attend the festival—his 10th. Griswold, a big McCullough fan, arrived at 9 a.m. on Sunday to be at the front of the line for the author's signing—4½ hours later.

Griswold said he was first inspired by the author's book, "The Johnstown Flood."

"He made it so interesting that I had to go to Johnstown to check it out," he said. "That's the way he writes. He makes it so alive."

The new Family Storytelling Stage overflowed with parents and children. On Saturday, actress Moore followed Josh Lewis and his creation, Super Chicken Nugget Boy ("He's big, he's breaded").

"Can I tell you a secret? This is the first time I've read this book to a bunch of kids," Moore said before reading aloud from one of the books in her "Freckleface Strawberry" series, inspired by her childhood experiences.

The festival featured the debut, on Sunday, of three new pavilions: State Poets Laureate, The Cutting Edge and Graphic Novels. *(See story on page 482.)*

Comic-book artist Kazu Kibuishi, using a marker and drawing paper, illustrated his work "Amulet" for a crowd in Graphic Novels. He also explained the wrong turns that ultimately led him to his current work.

"I decided to become a filmmaker because I thought that's a more respectable field and I could make more money at it. I was wrong," Kibuishi said to laughter. ◆

Mark Hartsell is editor of The Gazette, the Library's staff newsletter. Abby Brack and Donna Urschel in the Office of Communications contributed to this article.

New Mini-Pavilions Offer Something for Everyone

By ERIN ALLEN

For the second day of the National Book Festival, the Pavilion of the States got a makeover. Gone were the tables from Alabama through Wyoming; in their place were three new mini-pavilions offering the best from The Cutting Edge, State Poets Laureate and Graphic Novels.

One of the most popular was Graphic Novels, where fans enjoyed impromptu sketching from their favorite artists.

Richard Thompson, creator of the "Cul de Sac" comic strip about the life of a preschool girl named Alice Otterloop, kicked off the festivities with a PowerPoint presentation of some of his favorite work and commentary on the much-loved characters. In addition to his remarks, Thompson let his comic strip do the talking.

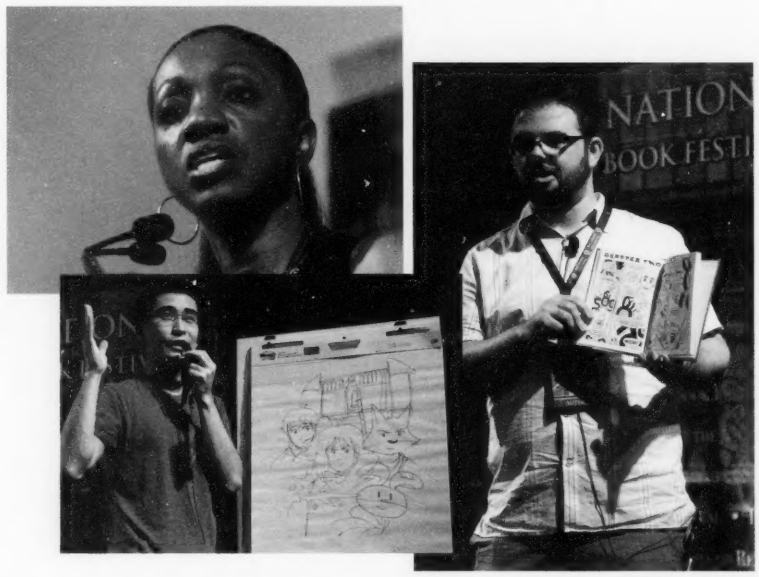
Taking pen to pad were the likes of Kazu Kibuishi, Allen Say, Eric Wight and Rachel Renee Russell. Their young fans stared rapt, many standing in the aisles or moving closer to the stage to catch a glimpse of their favorite cartoon characters.

Say, a soft-spoken man who admitted to getting lost a lot when giving talks, drew caricatures of himself and his mentor, Noro Shinpei. Say is the author of the Caldecott Honor-winning "The Boy of the Three-Year Nap."

"Images come from a deeper part of the cave than words," Say said. "To be called an author just boggles my mind. But I never write, I draw first. I attempt to tap my unconscious."

The State Poets Laureate pavilion set a more reserved tone, with readings from Kelly Cherry of Virginia, Dolores Kendrick of the District of Columbia, Wesley McNair of Maine, Carol Muske-Dukes of California and Stanley Plumly of Maryland. During a question-and-answer session, Plumly shared a sentiment likely echoed by his fellow poets.

"A feeling toward your experiences, the way you respond to the world guides what you think and write about," he said. "The topics choose you."



Photos by Adriel Bettelheim

Clockwise from top left, Kimberla Lawson Roby speaks in the Cutting Edge pavilion. Eric Wight and Kazu Kibuishi speak in the Graphic Novels pavilion.

Taking the podium in the Cutting Edge Pavilion were authors who took different approaches to writing and publishing and who cover social issues in their books—Colleen Houck, Kimberla Lawson Roby, Eric Dezenhall and Kia DuPree.

Both Houck and Roby got started by self-publishing their novels—a practice they think is about to become more commonplace. Houck, author of the "Tiger's Curse" series, got her break after publishing her book online through Kindle.

"I admit I kind of did everything backwards," she said.

After writing the first two books in her series and receiving rejection after rejection, Houck self-published them as e-books. Within a few months, they were selling like crazy. And, by soliciting reviews and help from her fans, along with beefing up her web presence, she was able to get deals with foreign publishers and even Hollywood. After all that, she finally got a literary agent and book deal.

As with Houck, Roby's first book, "Behind Closed Doors," met with rejection.

"I had thought that was it, but my mother encouraged me not to give up," she said. "My husband actually encouraged me to publish the book myself because I had a business background."

Roby used her own finances to print copies of her book to market herself—and at one time had some 3,000 books in her spare bedroom. Her perseverance paid off: She is now a New York Times best-selling author with 16 published novels—and the rights to her first book have been optioned for film. ◆

Erin Allen is a writer-editor in the Office of Communications.

Fans from Across U.S. Make Festival a Tradition

By WENDI A. MALONEY

Anne Mlod, a central New York school librarian, has attended every National Book Festival since 2003. Each year, she chaperones a busload of students well-prepared to meet their favorite authors and ask questions.

"I appreciate the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of the students," Mlod says. "It's very exciting for me."

The tradition started when Mlod was director of the Weedsport Free Library in Weedsport, N.Y. Her daughter, then in fourth grade, organized the Junior Friends of the Weedsport Library for third-to-eighth graders.

The National Book Festival was the group's second excursion; it was so popular, young book enthusiasts from the area have returned year after year. Now that Mlod is a librarian at nearby Genesee Elementary School, students from there also come along.

Before traveling, Mlod tells students about the authors who will appear at the festival and encourages the students to research authors of interest. Last year, a local newspaper reporter coached the students on interviewing. They received press passes and interviewed festival authors, writing an article for the local newspaper.

Other educators also have made the festival a habit.

Abby Brack

Students from the Junior Friends Group from Rochester, N.Y., interview teen author Gordon Korman at the media tent at the 2011 National Book Festival.

Cathy Fager, Michele Munski and Doris Waud of the Rush-Henrietta School District in Rochester, N.Y., have attended most years since 2003, after their former colleague Gail Petri accepted a position as educational outreach specialist at the Library of Congress.

"We love the book festival for the way it spurs our thinking and gives us ideas for our own creativity," says Flager, a special education teacher.

> "I loved it. There was no question I would come again."
>
> —Dawn Malcolm, Anoka, Minn.

This year, the Rush-Henrietta trio especially enjoyed Tomie dePaola; William Joyce; Garrison Keillor; and Carmen Agra Deedy and John McCutcheon, a married couple who appeared jointly.

"The festival has a direct effect on my work as a school media specialist," Munski says, explaining that being able to tell students special details about favorite authors helps build enthusiasm for reading.

Waud, a kindergarten teacher, is the group's photographer; the Library of Congress has selected her pictures from past festivals for its website.

"I love how it's all put together," she says of the festival. "I love learning about books and how authors develop them. It gives me inspiration for my job."

Teachers and librarians are not the only regulars at the book festival.

Dawn Malcolm of Anoka, Minn., attended her first festival in 2010 with a friend from Prince William County in Virginia.

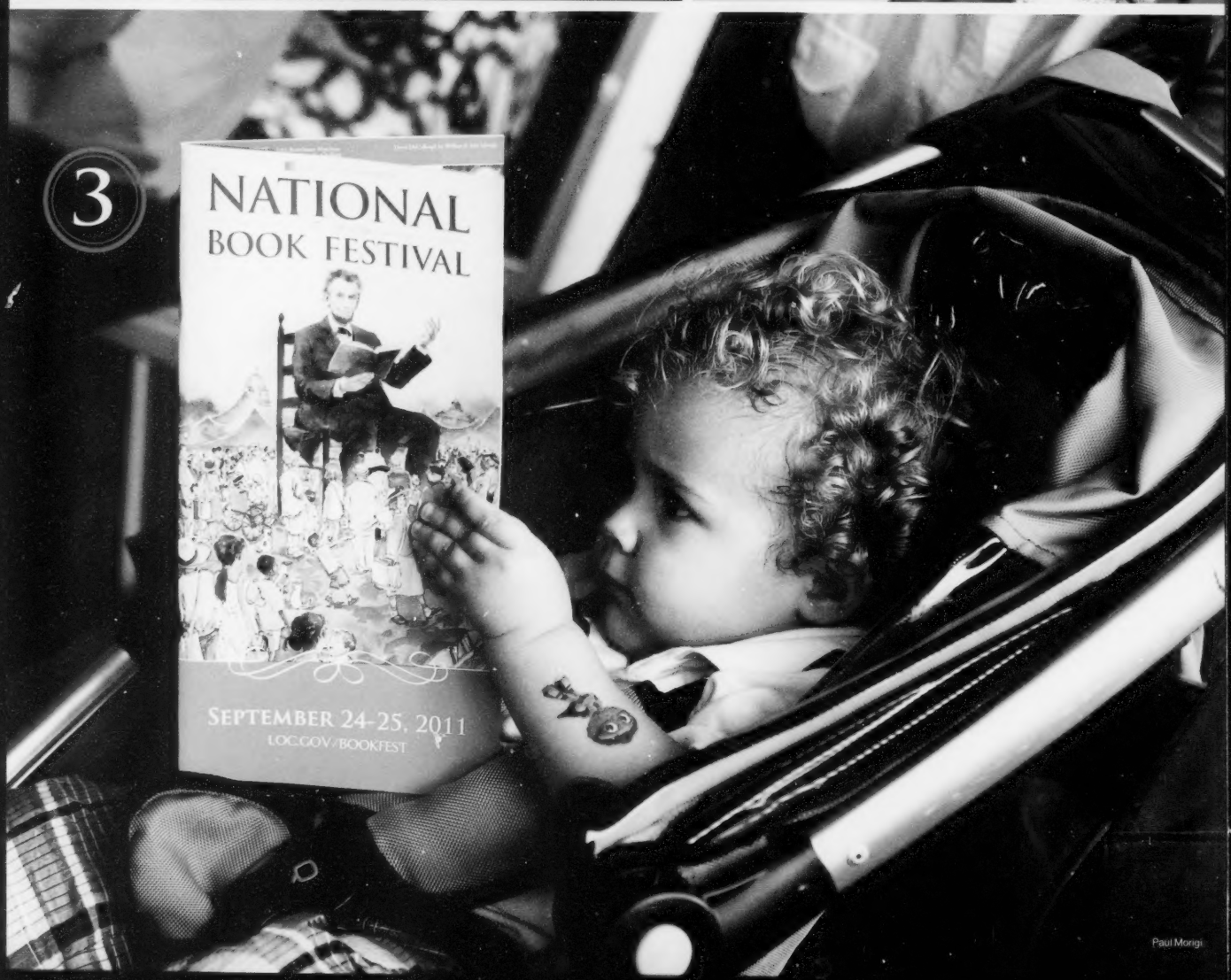
"I loved it. There was no question I would come again," she says.

This year, Dawn says she especially enjoyed Keillor, a fellow native of Anoka. She persuaded an avid reader friend from Minnesota to make the trip with her.

"We'll be back," she says. ◆

Wendi A. Maloney is a writer-editor in the U.S. Copyright Office.

AROUND THE FESTIVAL



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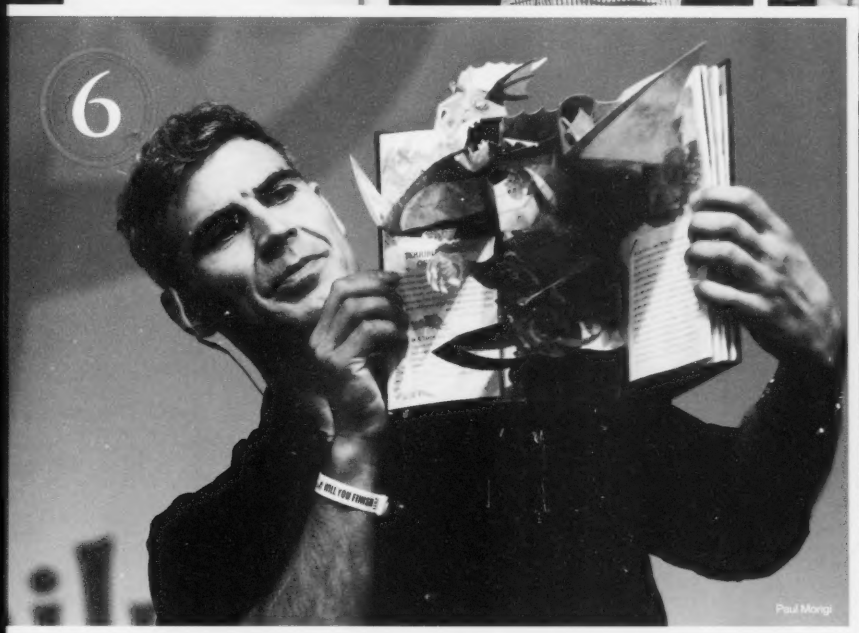
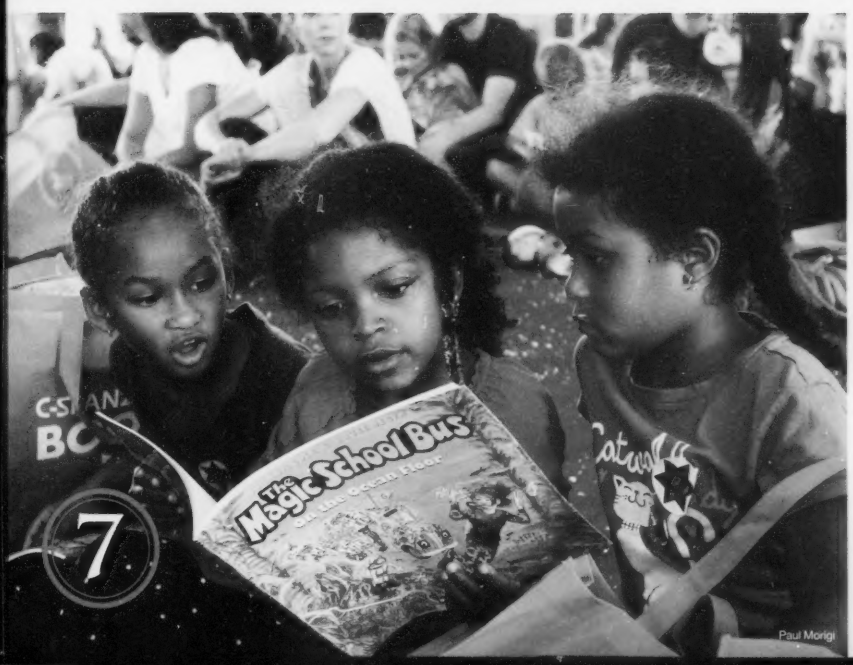
BOOK FESTIVAL

Kimberly Powell

Lia Kerwin



Paul Morigi



Paul Morigi

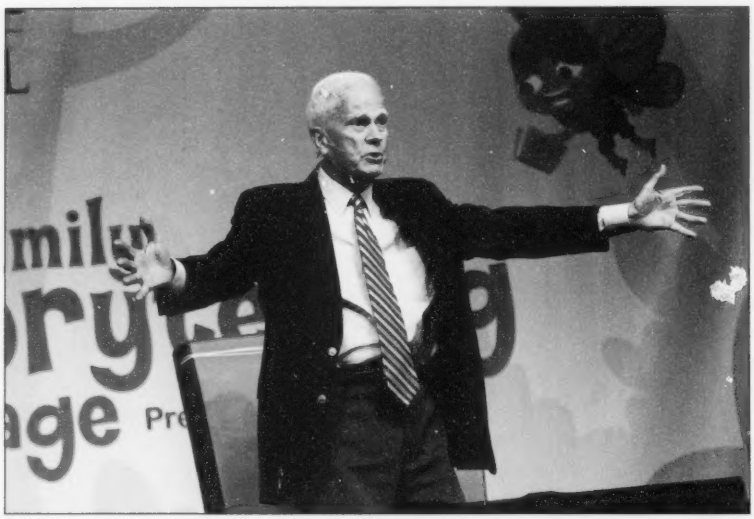
1. Wendy Arentz and Gail Young, educators from Mechanicsburg, Pa., waited in a long line to meet Toni Morrison. 2. Jane O'Connor reads from her "Fancy Nancy" book on the Family Storytelling Stage. 3. Christian Buesing-Lopez reads a National Book Festival program. 4. Author/ Illustrator Calef Brown speaks in the Children's pavilion. 5. Festival visitors stroll through the festival. 6. Matthew Reinhart reads from his book, "Encyclopedia Mythologica: Dragons & Monsters" on the Family Storytelling Stage. 7. Macie Davis (from left), Isabella Hawthorne and Cassie Davis read "The Magic School Bus" on the Family Storytelling Stage.

2011

NATIONAL

BOOK FESTIVAL

Kids Learn Joys of Reading Alone, Aloud



Paul Morigi

Librarian of Congress James Billington recites Edward Lear's "The Owl and the Pussycat" on the Family Storytelling Stage on Saturday.

By AUDREY FISCHER

All the world was a stage for the children who attended the 2011 National Book Festival as the "Family Storytelling Stage" made its debut, courtesy of Target.

Representing this year's National Book Festival theme, "Celebrate the Joys of Reading Aloud," the stage featured more than 20 children's authors and performers who engaged young minds through music and the spoken word.

The Okee Dokee Brothers, Hip Hop Harry, Choo Choo Soul, the Not Ready for Naptime Players and Moona Luna entertained and educated children with music that ranged from rap to rock and lutes to Latin rhythms. Wally (Famous) Amos, whose chocolate-chip cookie fortune launched a Read It Loud! literacy campaign, also made an appearance and encouraged parents to read to children daily.

Even the Librarian of Congress got into the act by reading aloud Edward Lear's classic "The Owl and the Pussycat." Published in 1871, the illustrated "nonsense poem" has remained a favorite of children for more than a century. The Librarian hooted and purred his way through the verse, which tells of the unlikely marriage of the title characters.

Favorite characters were not confined to the stage. The Cat in the Hat, Clifford the Big Red Dog, Curious George and other mascots strolled the festival grounds and posed for pictures.

Youngsters were also invited to "hop on the bus"—The Magic School Bus—and meet Ms. Frizzle of the Scholastic classic that celebrates its 25th anniversary this year.

Other traveling exhibits parked on the National Mall were the Digital Bookmobile powered by OverDrive, which allowed visitors to explore the world of electronic library services, and the Library's Gateway to Knowledge, a truck-size display of Library of Congress treasures (in facsimile) that toured the country during the past year.

The Let's Read America and PBS Kids pavilions offered a host of hands-on activities courtesy of the festival's corporate sponsors. Children created bookmarks, colored in a book about "Jack," the Wells Fargo dog, and used simple craft materials to "build a book." And they had the opportunity to "give back" on Scholastic's "We Give Books" reading site that donates books to children.

This year's festival offered two scavenger hunts. The Pavilion of the States reprised its annual "Discover Great Places Through Reading," a free map on which children can place state stickers and stamps obtained at each state-sponsored table. For the first time, the Washington Post's "Kids Post" column sponsored a scavenger hunt, based on the collection of three book-festival-themed stickers.

It took two pavilions—Children's and Teens—to present a record 28 authors and illustrators to their young audiences.

The Children's pavilion opened on Saturday with a celebration of the

Michaela McNichol

Four-year-old Nina Thomas poses with children's author Tomie dePaola.

Abby Brack

PBS brought the Magic School Bus and Ms. Frizzle to the National Mall again this year.

recent publication of "The Exquisite Corpse Adventure." Launched at the National Book Festival in 2009 and completed at the 2010 festival, the progressive story-game was written and illustrated collaboratively by many of the country's top children's writers and illustrators.

From a relative newcomer to children's literature, the actress Julianne Moore, to the veteran Tomie dePaola, who boasts 250 tomes to his name, festival participants spoke to their fans, answered their questions and signed their books.

And some, like Katherine Paterson, the National Ambassador for Young People's Literature, thanked their readers for their vivid imaginations. "They make my books better than I could ever have imagined." ◆

Zen and the Art of Children's Illustration

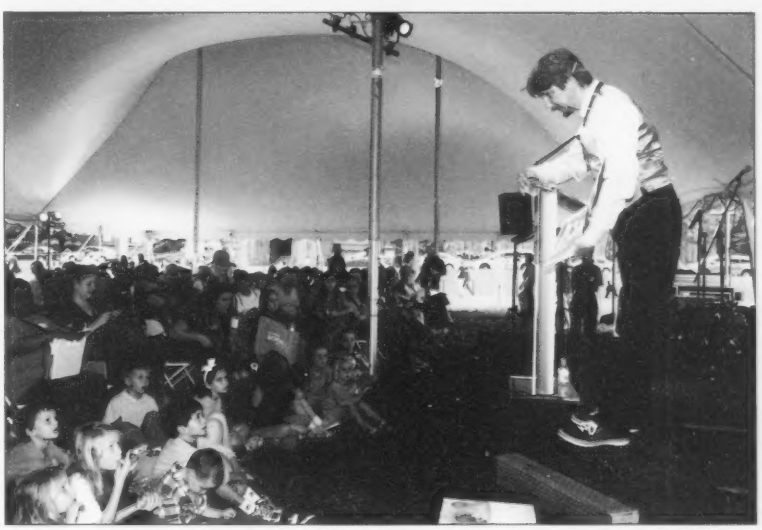
By AUDREY FISCHER

This year's National Book Festival poster illustrator, John J Muth, grew up in Cincinnati, Ohio, but found his artistic style while studying stone sculpture and calligraphy in Japan.

The son of an art teacher, Muth drew from a young age and was said to have "shown up with a pencil in hand." He was exposed to the works of such masters as Caravaggio but he believes it is the Zen masters—and the birth of his children—that have shaped his work as a children's book artist.

"One day I wondered what it would be like to live down the street from a Zen master," recalled Muth. "And what if he happened to be a giant panda wearing a large pair of shorts?" The result was "Zen Shorts," the first in a series of books with "Zen" in the title and the Buddhist philosophy in the story.

"Zen Shorts," "Zen Ties" and "Zen Ghosts" each feature a wise panda named Stillwater who teaches life lessons. When asked how the panda got his name, Muth explained, "You can see your reflection in still water. A still mind is ready for what's coming. But water that's moving is in a state of agitation."



Michaela McNichol

John J Muth reads to the audience in the Children's pavilion.

Muth, who began his career as a comic-book illustrator, has also collaborated on graphic novels with titles like "Swamp Thing" and "Dracula." On the other end of the spectrum, he illustrated Caroline Kennedy's compilation of poetry for children titled "A Family of Poems."

Behind the eclectic nature of Muth's art is his philosophy on literature: "Reading needs to be a whole feast of different things and then children will gravitate to the parts that get hold of them and their spirit." ◆

Toni Morrison

Fiction & Mystery

Nobel Laureate Toni Morrison made her National Book Festival debut this year. A writer, editor and teacher, Morrison learned early that "words have power." The granddaughter of a slave, she grew up knowing of the "respect, honor, delight and reverence that my family had for reading."

Terry McMillan

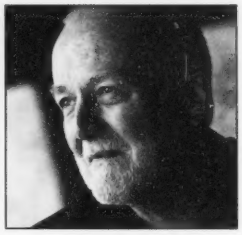
Fiction & Mystery

Terry McMillan treated her fans to a sneak preview of the novel she is currently writing, "Who Asked You?" She advises budding authors "to write something every day." She added, "Writing is not about getting published. … It's like an itch you have to scratch."

Laura Lippman

Fiction & Mystery

Laura Lippman was a Baltimore reporter, like her fictional alter ego Tess Monaghan, when she made a career switch. Instead of becoming a private eye, and the heroine of 11 stories, she became a novelist who penned the series. Becoming a mother last year "has changed the way I write about parents. I have a new appreciation."



Russell Banks

Fiction & Mystery

Russell Banks has learned in the process of having several of his novels made into motion pictures that "novelists are like actors—we inhabit the bodies and lives of our characters." Background research can be done in a library but it is by "imaginatively inhabiting" a character that Banks can tell that person's story.

David McCullough

History & Biography

"History is much more than politics and the military," said historian David McCullough. "We must include art, architecture, music, poetry, drama and dance as subjects in history. It's who we are as human beings. It's all a part of our story." Those fields all engaged 19th-century Americans in Paris, as McCullough describes in his latest work.

Eugene Robinson

History & Biography

Eugene Robinson writes of "not one black America, but four" in his new book "Disintegration: The Splintering of Black America." These are: "mainstream" middle-class majority, the affluent "transcendent" elite, "emergent" black immigrants and blacks of biracial heritage, and the "abandoned" who "didn't make that climb from poverty to the middle class."

Rita Dove

Poetry & Prose

A poet in a family of chemists, Rita Dove felt "like an alien" growing up. She attributes that, and "not looking like a WASP," to her love for science fiction. But it was her love of music that led her to write poetry. "Music was a language I understood and poetry is the closest thing to music."

Garrison Keillor

Poetry & Prose

Garrison Keillor, the longtime host of "A Prairie Home Companion," appreciates the potential of a poem to affect a life. "To have one passionate reader would be preferable to having 1,000 indifferent readers," Keillor said. "You never know who might read a poem and take it personally. You can only hope for that."

Tomie DePaola

Children

Tomie DePaola has been delighting children for more than 35 years with his "Strega Nona" ("grandma witch") character and many others. "I knew I wanted to write and illustrate books when I was four," he said. Years later, while doodling Punchinello, an Italian folk character, he added a kerchief and bosom, "and the rest was history."

Julianne Moore

Children

Actress and children's author Julianne Moore explained what books have meant to her life. "The reason I'm an actor is I love to read books. … When I started doing plays at school, it was just like reading aloud," said the author of three books in the "Freckleface Strawberry" series.

Katherine Paterson

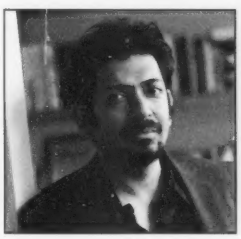
Teens

Katherine Paterson's "Bridge to Terabithia"—the 1977 Newbery-medal winning novel and the 2007 film—have captured the imaginations of generations of children. The plot line about a child's death helped Paterson deal with a real-life tragedy involving a child and her own mortality. "Stories have to make sense even when life doesn't."

Cassandra Clare

Teens

Cassandra Clare's unique brand of fantasy fiction is inspired by "a love of old-school urban fantasy that mixes the real and the unreal as opposed to separating the two into a world of things that are not magic and things that are." Her advice to budding authors is to "make writing part of your daily life."



Siddhartha Mukherjee

Contemporary Life

Siddhartha Mukherjee, author of "The Emperor of All Maladies: A Biography of Cancer," discussed the way people have understood and treated cancer. "Our knowledge of cancer is unlikely to eradicate it from our bodies or our lives," he said, suggesting a focus on prolonging life. "Perhaps we need to redefine what victory against cancer means."

Amy Chua

Contemporary Life

Amy Chua, the daughter of Chinese immigrants, ignited a global debate on parenting with the publication of "Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother," a memoir of the strict upbringing of her daughters and a meditation on cultural differences in child-rearing. "I am a proud, strict mom—taken down a few notches," Chua said.

Sarah Vowell

Contemporary Life

With a name like Sarah Vowell, one might be expected to have a good grasp of the language. But the author and social commentator also has a keen sense of history on which she puts her unique twist. A case in point is "Unfamiliar Fishes," her latest work about the "annexation and Americanization of Hawaii."

Hoda Kotb

Contemporary Life

Veteran journalist and co-anchor of the fourth hour of the "Today" show, Hoda Kotb recounts "How I Survived War Zones, Bad Hair, Cancer and Kathie Lee" in her memoir. She explains how these experiences have empowered her. "When you get cancer, you get four words: you can't scare me."

THE LIBRARY UNDER THE BIG TOP

By AUDREY FISCHER

The Library of Congress was housed under a billowing tent at the National Book Festival, where visitors explored the institution's past, present and future as well as their own.

Activities in the Library of Congress pavilion ranged from learning fun facts about the nation's oldest federal cultural institution to accessing treasures from around the world on the World Digital Library website (**www.wdl.org**).

Library experts were on hand to connect visitors to their families' histories through genealogical research tools, to show them how to preserve their family photos and to enable them to listen to voices from the past

Charlynn Pyne

Prints and Photographs Division librarian Barbara Natanson (center) displays images from the Library's collections.

Charlynn Pyne

Mark Sweeney

Visitors learn about "A Day the Library."

through folklife recordings.

Visitors could "Ask a Librarian" their reference questions, connect to Congress through a federal legislative information site known as THOMAS (**thomas.loc.gov**), learn how to copyright their creative works, participate in the Veterans History Project and get a glimpse of "a day at the Library."

Visitors also could see how digital talking-book technology is being used by the Library of Congress to assist the visually impaired. And they could learn how digital technology is being used to preserve the past—in various formats—and make those resources accessible on the web.

Launched earlier this year, the Library's National Jukebox (**www.loc.gov/jukebox/**) makes early-20th-century historical sound recordings available to the public free of charge. These and other sound recordings, films and radio and television broadcasts are housed at the Library's Packard campus for Audio Visual Conservation in Culpeper, Va., which opened in 2007. For the first time in the festival's history, staff members from the Packard Campus were on hand at the festival to highlight their collections and answer questions.

"Many people don't know that the Library of Congress preserves recorded sound and moving images, and that we have a state-of-the-art facility where we do this work," said Gene DeAnna, head of the Recorded Sound Section. ◆

Nancy Alfaro

After a Year on the Road, 'Gateway' Home at Last

By DONNA URSCHEL

The "Gateway to Knowledge" traveling exhibit, mounted in a specially designed 18-wheel truck, returned triumphant to the 2011 National Book Festival, its mission accomplished. During a year-long tour, the exhibit introduced thousands of people in small towns across America to the treasures and resources of the Library of Congress.

Parked near 7th Street at the festival, the exhibit drew a stream of visitors on Saturday and Sunday, generating the same enthusiastic response it found on the road.

"I've learned more here about the Library of Congress than I have in my 31 years as a D.C. resident," one area denizen said.

"Gateway"—launched at the 2010 book festival—traveled to 90 small towns in 34 states and drew about 85,000 people.

Visitors called it "fascinating," "awesome," "uplifting" and "amazing" and left eager to check out the Library website or make a trip to Washington, D.C., to visit the Library.

"I never realized how accessible the Library's archive is," a visitor from Dover, Del., wrote in the guestbook. "This is an eye-opening exhibit."

The exhibition featured facsimiles of top treasures—the 1507 Waldseemüller Map (the first document to use the word "America"); the 1455 Gutenberg Bible; the rough draft of the Declaration of Independence; and the 1962 drawings for the comic book that introduced Spider-Man to the world.

What interested visitors the most?

"Thomas Jefferson's rough draft was the first thing guests wanted to see," said Abigail Van Gelder, the exhibit's docent. "But the hands-down favorite was Spider-Man and the Library's comic-book collection—for adults as well as the kids."

"Gateway" was made possible by the support of Abby and Emily Rapoport, and by members of the James Madison Council, the Library's private-sector advisory group.

"This exhibit absolutely exceeded our expectations," said Seth de Matties, exhibition director for the project in the Library's Interpretive Programs Office. "It has been very special, because the results are so tangible. The response from the small towns and communities has been touching and meaningful."

Josh Van Gelder and his wife, Abigail, drove "Gateway" around the country. When the couple pulled into town, they opened the trailer, which expanded to three times its road width. They greeted visitors and, as docents, helped educate them about the materials on display.

Josh and Abigail maintained the truck's appearance, taking the 18-wheeler through truck washes and dusting, polishing and vacuuming the inside. In snowy weather, they chipped ice sheets off the flat exterior surfaces.

Abigail worked with local media to publicize the exhibit, conducting four to six interviews per week. The exhibit generated more than $2.3 mil-

lion in media value for the Library.

Josh and Abigail drove 19,000 miles during the trip.

"We saw some really beautiful parts of the country," Abigail said. "We truly enjoyed our frequent traversing of the Appalachian Mountains and encounters with the Atlantic Ocean. ... We fell in love with Asheville, N.C. It was beautiful, with a great music scene and a unique city culture."

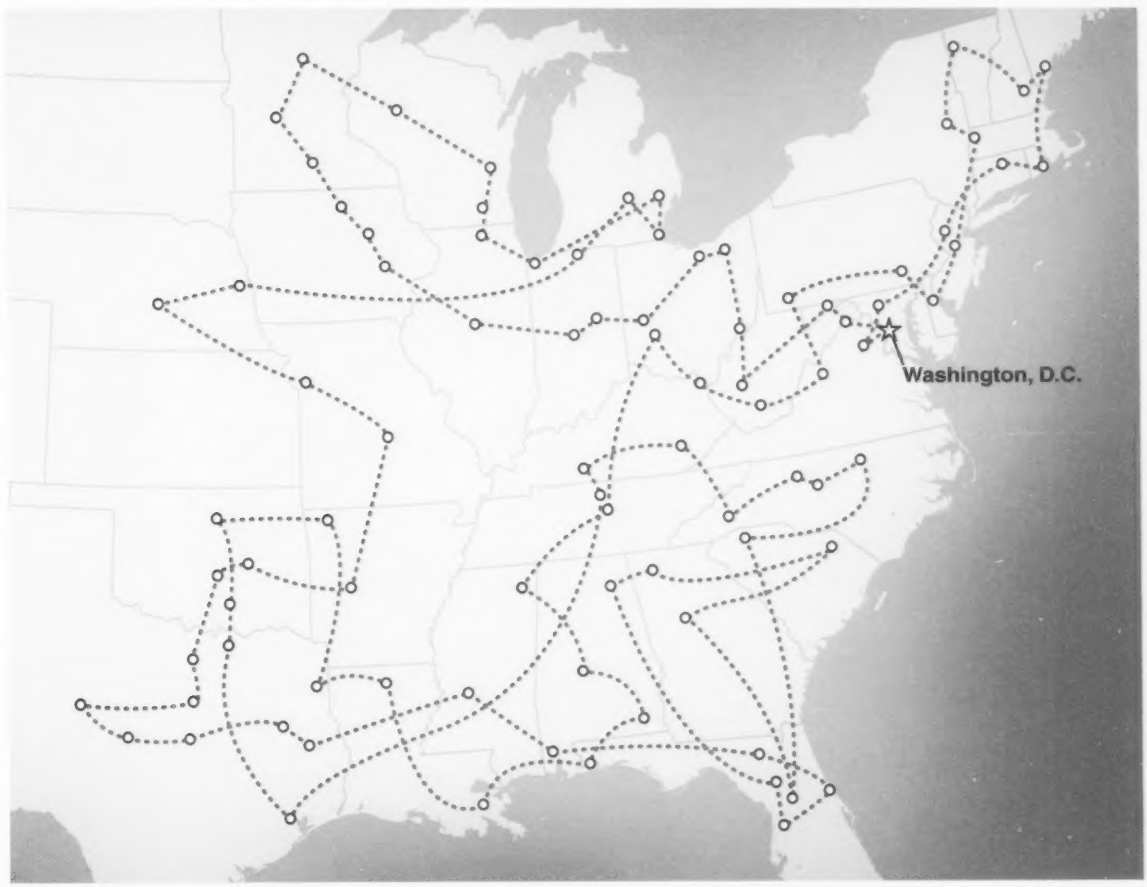
In every town, Abigail said, they saw people excited to learn about the Library and grateful the exhibit traveled to their town.

At the festival, Karen Hess of Schenectady, N.Y., walked up to Abigail and said, "You came to Amsterdam, N.Y. I met you then. We were just so pleased the exhibit came to Amsterdam. It meant a lot." ◆

Donna Urschel is a public affairs specialist in the Office of Communications.

Abby Brack

Combination Docent-Drivers Josh and Abigail Van Gelder spent 12 months and 19,000 miles in the Gateway to Knowledge truck, criss-crossing a wide swatch of the United States (map below).



2011 National Book Festival Pavilions and Authors

CHILDREN

Sponsored by AT&T
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Tomie dePaola
Exquisite Corpse Adventure
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Sam McBratney
John McCutcheon
Julianne Moore
Jon J Muth
Chris Van Dusen

TEENS

Cassandra Clare
Susan Cooper
Sarah Dessen
Jack Gantos
Gordon Korman
Uma Krishnaswami
Fredrick L. McKissack Jr.
Patricia McKissack
Shelia P. Moses
Kadir Nelson
Katherine Paterson
Gary Schmidt
Brian Selznick
Rita Williams-Garcia

CONTEMPORARY LIFE

Joel Achenbach
Amy Chua
Bob Edwards
Leon Fleisher
Joshua Foer
Jessica Harris
Marc Kaufman
Hoda Kotb
Jim Lehrer
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Siddhartha Mukherjee
Sylvia Nasar
Sarah Vowell

FICTION & MYSTERY

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Claudia Emerson
Mary Gordon
Kimiko Hahn
Terrance Hayes
Garrison Keillor
Yusef Komunyakaa
Linda Pastan
Poetry Out Loud
John Milliken Thompson
Jonathan Yardley

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Tom Angleberger
Mac Barnett
James H. Billington
Michael Buckley
Choo Choo Soul with Genevieve
Hip Hop Harry
Daniel Kirk
Jarrett J. Krosoczka
Josh Lewis
Tom Lichtenheld
Loren Long
Cedella Marley
Moona Luna
Julianne Moore
Lauren Myracle
Jane O'Connor
Okee Dokee Brothers
Mark Pett
Matthew Reinhart
Justin Roberts & the Not Ready for Naptime Players
John Rocco
Gary Rubinstein
Ellen Sabin
Bob Shea
Angela Farris Watkins
Lisa Yee

THE CUTTING EDGE

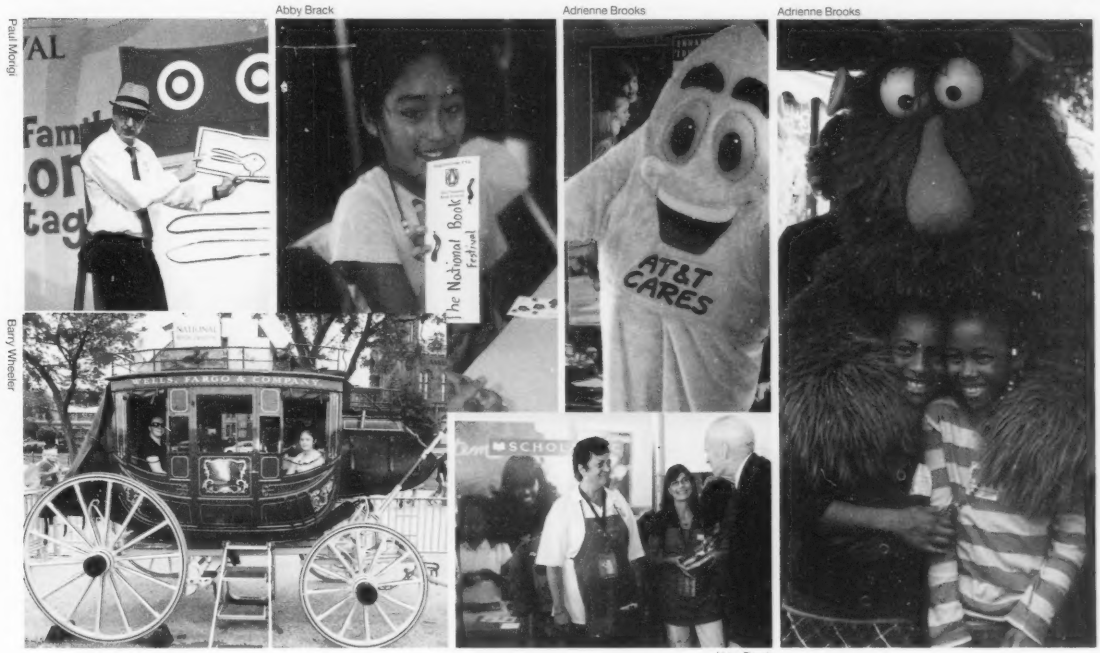
Eric Dezenhall
Kia DuPree
Colleen Houck
Kimberla Lawson Roby

GRAPHIC NOVELS

Kazu Kibuishi
Rachel Renee Russell
Allen Say
Richard Thompson
Eric Wight

STATE POETS LAUREATE

Kelly Cherry
Dolores Kendrick
Wesley McNair
Carol Muske-Dukes
Stanley Plumly



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SPECIAL THANKS

C-SPAN2'S Book TV, for coverage
The Junior League of Washington, which once again provided hundreds of volunteers to support the National Book Festival and the promotion of reading and literacy.

National Book Festival in the News

By ERIN ALLEN

Celebrating its 11th year, the Library's National Book Festival received robust media coverage across print, online and broadcast channels, with a total of 627 stories and 1.16 million media impressions appearing in top news outlets.

The Library continued its social-media outreach through its Facebook and Twitter pages and an online pressroom with background materials, high-resolution images, B-roll, and podcasts of author interviews.

"Today" show co-host and festival author Hoda Kotb gave the Library and the National Book Festival a "shout out" on her show and through her Twitter account. Kotb's tweets, along with many others, could be viewed by festival attendees on a live Twitterfall.

Radio and broadcast coverage included **WRC-TV** (NBC, Washington, DC), **WTOP**, **WETA** and **Sirius XM Radio**.

Festival sponsor **C-SPAN2** taped select author presentations for national broadcast on BookTV. And, new this year, the network held live on-stage chats with the authors who delivered the final presentation of the day on both Saturday and Sunday. Members of the live audience and call-in viewers participated in the dialogue with authors.

The Washington Post, a charter sponsor of the National Book Festival, ran a variety stories, including naming it a "weekend best event." The publication also hosted a scavenger hunt as part of KidsPost.com.

The Post's Reliable Source column said the festival was "all about the old-fashioned, ongoing love affair with reading."

Author Toni Morrison was a big festival draw, not only with the fans but also the media. The Post called her "witty, wise and insightful." **Washingtonian** said Morrison "charmed the audience with her breezy sense of humor and her candor."

Nancy Dunham of the **Washington Examiner** said, "If you think that honest-to-goodness books have gone the way of eight-track tape players, you'll likely change your mind when you attend the 2011 National Book Festival sponsored by the Library of Congress."

Abby Brack

Time for kids reporter Claire Duncan interviews actress/author Julianne Moore in the Media Tent.

"At the festival, you get a chance to hear favorite authors talk about their favorite characters, how books came to be and what the craft of writing is like," said blog **GeekMom**. "Having spent so much time in a world created by someone else, it can be a little astonishing to see writers in person."

Publishers Weekly and **The Huffington Post** covered the festival with photo essays, as did D.C.'s own **BrightestYoungThings.com**, with a more humorous edge.

"Here's the thing about the book festival: it's bench-deep, like the Yankees lineup. Even the pinch hitters are best sellers. We thumbed through the catalog of authors like kids on Christmas morning choosing which presents to open first," said Jeff Jetton. "The festival is like the Oscars for book nerds and fanboys and fangirls."

Coverage by the Library's own reporter, Mark Hartsell, was featured in **American Libraries** magazine. "Like a good book, the 11th annual National Book Festival in Washington, D.C., September 24-25, took readers to places they had never been before.

"The festival attracted all sorts: groups who traveled hundreds of miles to attend; locals who come every year; diehard fans who patiently waited in book-signing lines that stretched across the Mall; families who queued up for photos with Arthur the Aardvark; and even a man who walked a special guest to readings—a heavyset cat on a leash," Hartsell said.

Time for Kids sent young reporter Claire Duncan to cover the festival. "Some of our nation's most important events have happened on the National Mall," she noted. "Having the 11th annual National Book Festival in the shadow of Abraham Lincoln's memorial demonstrates the importance of books and reading in our lives."

Other coverage included the **Associated Press, Southern Living, Amtrak's GoCity** online guide, **Roll Call, The Hill, Capitol File, Culture Mob** blog, **Washington City Paper, Voice of America, Wall Street Journal, The New York Times' Caucus Blog, The Baltimore Sun, School Library Journal**, and **Spirit Magazine** (Southwest Airlines' in-flight publication).

Erin Allen is a writer-editor in the Office of Communications.

Artifacts of History

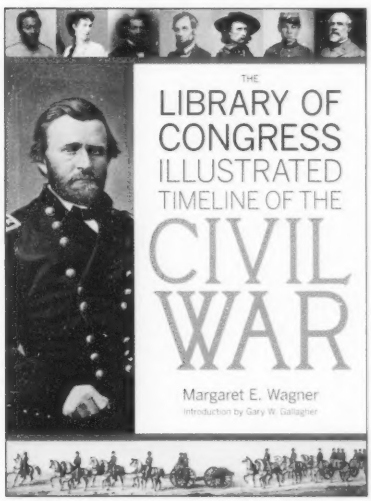
Library Publishes Two Civil War-Era Books

To mark the sesquicentennial of the bloodiest conflict on American soil, the Library of Congress has published two Civil War-era books featuring items drawn from its collections.

"Library of Congress Illustrated Timeline of the Civil War"

The nation's library, in collaboration with Little, Brown and Company, has published "The Library of Congress Illustrated Timeline of the Civil War" by Margaret E. Wagner, a senior writer and editor in the Publishing Office. The book includes an introduction by Gary W. Gallagher, the John L. Nau III Professor in the History of the American Civil War at the University of Virginia.

Drawn from rare source material in the unparalleled Civil War collections of the world's largest library, "The Library of Congress Illustrated Timeline of the Civil War" is an authoritative and engaging chronological narrative of the conflict that raged across the United States from 1861-1865. Quotes from figures—both well-known and unsung—provide testaments to the war's broad scope and complexity, and to the determination and valor that characterized the people on both sides of the conflict.



Among its panoply of illustrations—including some materials rarely seen and never-before published—readers will encounter manuscripts in Lincoln's own hand, onsite drawings made by a Civil War combat artist, maps, color lithographs, political cartoons, posters, period photographs, and much more. Illustrations and text together reveal dimensions of this pivotal conflict not covered in standard Civil War histories.

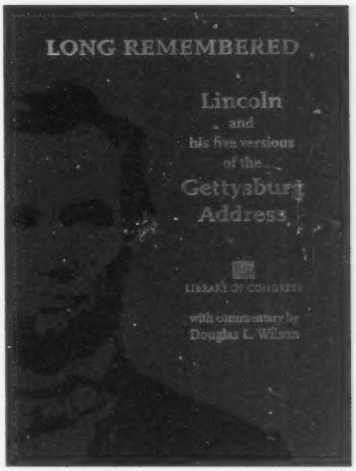
The 240-page, hardcover volume, with more than 350 color illustrations, is available for $35 in bookstores nationwide and at the Library of Congress Sales Shop, Washington, D.C., 20540-4985. Credit-card orders are taken at (888) 682-3557, or shop on the Internet at **www.loc.gov/shop/.**

"Long Remembered: Lincoln and his Five Versions of the Gettysburg Address"

While scholars are not sure what Abraham Lincoln read from when he delivered his remarks at the consecration of the Gettysburg burial ground, they do agree that Lincoln wrote at least five versions of his famous Gettysburg Address. Two of these five copies—in Lincoln's own hand—are housed at the Library of Congress, which contains one of the largest collections of Lincolniana in the world.

To commemorate the centennial of Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address in 1963, the Library of Congress published "Long Remembered: Lincoln and his Five Versions of the Gettysburg Address" with text by two scholars from the Library's Manuscript Division, David D. Mearns and Lloyd A. Dunlap.

The Library, in association with Levenger, has recently updated and reproduced this classic work to mark



the sesquicentennial of the Civil War. Printed on archival paper and Smythe-sewn in a linen binding, the new volume is a collector's edition of an American treasure.

High-resolution, digitized color images of all five versions of the famous address replace the black-and-white facsimiles that appeared in the original edition. Two of the versions—the John G. Nicolay and John Hay copies—are printed unbound and placed in a pocket in the book, folded as Lincoln folded them.

To update the book further, Lincoln historian Douglas L. Wilson contributed a commentary on the Gettysburg Address and retired Library of Congress curator John R. Sellers discusses his experiences working with Lincoln's historic address during his years in the Manuscript Division. A host of historic documents and photographs from the Library's collections have also been added.

The 136-page, hardcover book with 20 illustrations is available for $69 through the Levenger website at **www.levenger.com** and the Library of Congress Sales Shop, Washington, D.C., 20540-4985. The Library will accept credit-card orders at (888) 682-3557. ◆

TIMELY and Timeless

Comic Art Acquisitions Focus of New Exhibition

Political and social satire, comic-strip and comic-book drawings, New Yorker magazine illustrations and graphic narratives—original cartoon art that was added to the Library of Congress collections during the past decade—is featured in a new exhibition, "Timely and Timeless: New Comic Art Acquisitions."

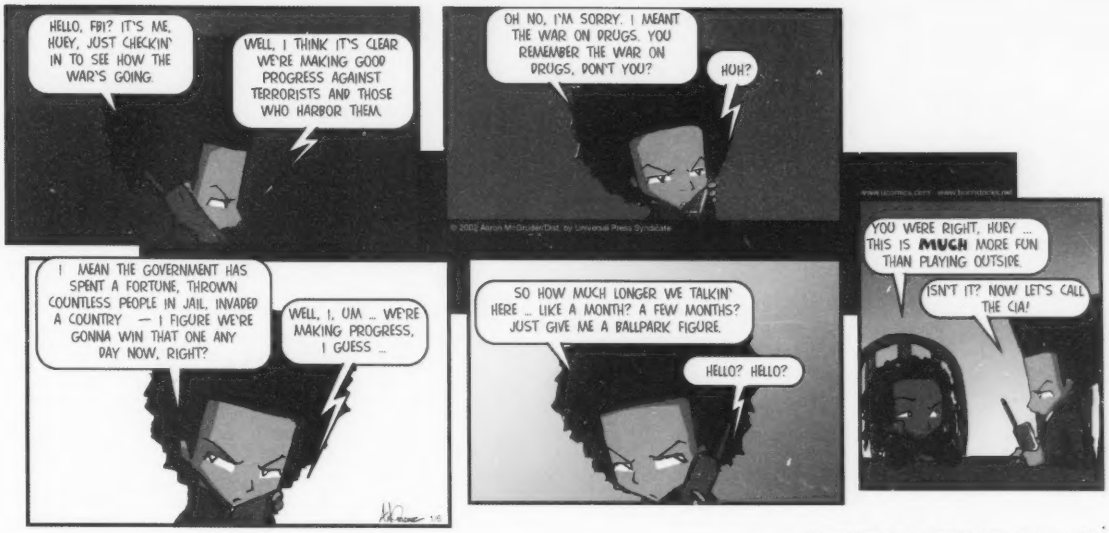
The exhibition, which opened on Sept. 15, 2011, in the changing exhibit space of the Graphic Arts Galleries on the ground level of the Library's Thomas Jefferson Building, closes on March 10, 2012. The galleries are open to the public from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Admission is free.

"Timely and Timeless" celebrates and demonstrates the multi-faceted development and impressive growth of the comic art collections at the Library of Congress. The exhibition, a collaborative effort of the Prints and Photographs Division and the Interpretive Programs Office, presents 48 works grouped primarily by genre. These include editorial cartoons, caricatures, comic strips, cover art and humor cartoons, comic-book drawings and graphic narratives.

Among the cartoonists represented are historical masters James Gillray and Honoré Daumier, as well as

Estate of John Held, Jr. Courtesy of Illustration House, Inc. Prints and Photographs Division

John Held Jr.'s art, in this prime example from McClure's Magazine, August 1927, epitomized the Jazz Era of the 1920s.


HELLO, FBI? IT'S ME, HUEY, JUST CHECKIN' IN TO SEE HOW THE WAR'S GOING.
WELL, I THINK IT'S CLEAR WE'RE MAKING GOOD PROGRESS AGAINST TERRORISTS AND THOSE WHO HARBOR THEM.
OH NO, I'M SORRY. I MEANT THE WAR ON DRUGS. YOU REMEMBER THE WAR ON DRUGS, DON'T YOU?
HUH?
© 2002 Aaron McGruder/Dist. by Universal Press Syndicate
I MEAN THE GOVERNMENT HAS SPENT A FORTUNE, THROWN COUNTLESS PEOPLE IN JAIL, INVADED A COUNTRY — I FIGURE WE'RE GONNA WIN THAT ONE ANY DAY NOW, RIGHT?
WELL, I, UM ... WE'RE MAKING PROGRESS, I GUESS ...
SO HOW MUCH LONGER WE TALKIN' HERE ... LIKE A MONTH? A FEW MONTHS? JUST GIVE ME A BALLPARK FIGURE.
HELLO? HELLO?
YOU WERE RIGHT, HUEY ... THIS IS MUCH MORE FUN THAN PLAYING OUTSIDE.
ISN'T IT? NOW LET'S CALL THE CIA!

Universal Press Syndicate and Prints and Photographs Division

Aaron McGruder's topical work in "The Boondocks" comic strip, seen in this installment from Jan. 6, 2002, later found an audience as an animated television program.

modern and contemporary creators such as Jazz Age cartoonist John Held, Jr.; African American artist Oliver Wendell Harrington; New Yorker cartoonists Charles Addams and Roz Chast; and comic-strip creators Bill Griffith and Aaron McGruder.

Prints and Photographs Division

Money-related anxiety never goes out of style, as seen in "Fear of Finance" by Anita Kunz, the cover of the Washington Post Magazine from April 13, 1991.

The selection in this exhibition also responds to recent trends in cartooning, which include growth in mainstream and alternative comic-book industries and the related, rapidly rising importance of graphic novels or narratives, as represented by the work of Steve Ditko, co-creator of Spider-Man, and graphic novelist Eric Drooker.

The title of the exhibition, "Timely and Timeless," refers to the nature of comic art. Comic art relates closely to the times that give rise to it—in terms of content, aesthetic sensibility and conceptualization. Timeliness is, in fact, a defining feature of much comic art, which often comments on current events. Timeless reflections of the human condition and society are also represented in the drawings and prints selected for this exhibition. The messages and artistic expression embodied in these creations transcend the periods in which they were created.

The development of the Library's comic-art holdings can be attributed to the support of the Swann Foundation for Caricature and Cartoon, which was established to encourage appreciation for the dynamic and evolving field of cartoon and illustration arts; to special funds; and to the generosity of numerous donors, many of them artists who have given original work. The breadth of the selection presented in "Timely and Timeless" provides an opportunity to explore and experience the richness of these collections.

The Library's Prints and Photographs Division holds the largest-known collection of American political prints, the finest assemblage of British satirical prints outside Great Britain, and holdings of original drawings by generations of America's best cartoonists and illustrators. Extensive runs of rare satirical and comic journals from Europe and the United States can also be found in the division. In addition, the division holds photographs, posters, historical prints, fine-art prints and architectural and engineering designs.

The exhibition can be viewed online at **www.loc.gov/exhibits/.** ◆

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

"All things must change to something new..."

— Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Change is on the horizon.

After nearly 70 years of publishing under the title of "Information Bulletin," the Library's magazine is getting a new look and feel—and a new name. All will be revealed when the publication debuts in 2012.

Last spring we surveyed our readers for their likes and dislikes about the Library of Congress Information Bulletin and their suggestions for improvement. And we conducted focus groups made up of people not familiar with the publication. We asked them what they would like to see in a magazine produced by the nation's library.

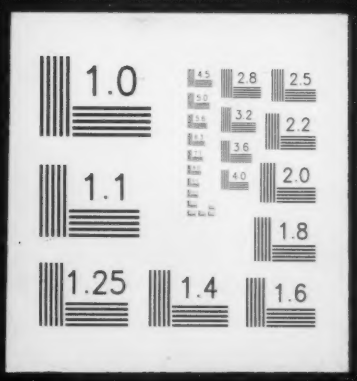
Our readers have spoken, and we have listened.

They told us that to engage today's readers—who are inundated with information—the publication must:

- **Reach out and grab readers with eye-catching graphics**
- **Engage readers with interesting stories that only the world's largest library can tell**
- **Take readers behind the scenes to see the Library's magnificent spaces, meet its staff members and browse its unparalleled collections.**

And so we are in the process of developing a new magazine that will do just that.

See you in 2012!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